

HIS HIGHNESS

THE

Prince of Oranges

LETTER

TO THE

STATES-GENERAL of the United Provinces;

As also that of One of the

STATES-DEPUTIES in the ARMY,

Giving an

ACCOUNT of the FIGHT

That happened the 14th instant,

Between His *HIGHNESS* ARMY,

And that of the

Duke of Luxemburg,

And of the Advantage Obtained by *His Highness* in it.

TRANSLATED.

In the SAVOY,

Printed by *Thomas Newcomb*, 1678.

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LETTER

FROM HIS

High. the P. of Orange,

TO THE

STATES-General of the United Provinces;

Giving an ACCOUNT of His Engagement with the Duke of Luxemburg's Army, and His Success in it on the 14th of Aug. 1678.

Hi. and Mi. LORDS,



According to what I Advised Your Hi. and Mi. by Mine of the 10th instant, We have Advanced in Four Days Marches with the Army of the State to this Place, which We thought to be the Way that with most Appearance of Success We ought to take in order

to the Succoring of Mons. Upon Our coming hither, We immediately found it necessary to Possess Our Selves of a certain Hill near this Place, of which the Enemy meant, in this Occasion, to have had the Benefit. After which, We thought fit to Command our Dragoons, seconded by some Battallions of Foot, to Attack this Abbey, where the Enemy had very Advantageously Posted Themselves;

and where the Duke of Luxemburg had his Head-Quarter; which they did with that Success, that in a short time the said Dragoons Possessed Themselves of it; and being seconded by Our Infantry, maintained that Post, after an Obstinate Dispute of Six Hours, notwithstanding the great Advantage the Enemy had of the Ground. The like was done on the side of Caltehan, from whence Our Infantry likewise, after a sharp Fight, Forced the Enemy that were Posted there. Your Lordships will consider that a great many Men must necessarily have been Killed on both sides. The last Night the Duke of Luxemburg Decamped very silently with his Army, not without Disorder, and leaving behind him as well Dead, as Wounded Men, Tents, Provisions, &c. So that VVe are in hopes, that by his Abandonning this Post, VVe shall be Able to Succour Mons, to which VVe shall apply Our Endeavours. In the mean time VVe find Our Self Obliged to give this Testimony of the Infantry of the State, that they have in this Occasion shown a Vigour and Resolution without Parallel, and done Actions beyond what could have been expected from them. It is a pity that the Ground would not permit the Cavalry to come into Action; which if it could have been, VVe might, with the Blessing of GOD, have expected very Great and Advantageous Effects thereof. VVherewith, &c. Written in the Camp near the Abbey of St. Denis, the 15 Aug. 1780.

Signed

G. H. Prince d'Orange.

LETTER
FROM THE
Heer Van Dyckvelt,
One of the STATES Deputies in the Army,
TO THE
STATES-GENERAL.

My Lords,



Is Highness having resolved the thirteenth instant to continue his march, not directly upon the Enemy, whose Right wing lay near the Abby of *St. Dennis*, and their Left near *Mamoy St Pierre*, but by the way of *Roeles* towards *Ville*, leaving the Woods and hollow ways between them, in order to the succouring of *Mons*; yesterday about noon the Army advanced hither. When his Highness finding that before the said Abby, in which the Duke of *Luxemburg* was himself lodged, on the side of their Camp; there was a Hill, from whence the Enemy might extremely incommode us with their Cannon, his High. thought fit to force the Enemy from thence, and to possess himself of the same, and to that end our Cannon was brought up and planted, and his High. Dragoons, and some Regiments of Foot of the left wing were commanded, not only to gain the said Hill, but likewise to attack the said Abby, which they began about two in the afternoon; our Cannon was so well Placed and made use of, and our Troops made the attack in so good order, and with so much Courage and resolution, that the Enemy in a short time quitted that Post, retreating to a Hill, which was near it, and from thence they de-

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fended themselves very well with Cannon and Small shot. In the mean time they drew their Troops out of their Lines, caused them to advance, and placed them long a very deep Defilé, or narrow way, which was between the two Armies, and thereupon it was thought necessary, that another Hill on our Right wing, near *Castehan*, should be secured, to hinder the Enemy from incommoding us on that side, and to that purpose his High. Foot-Guards were detached, who undertook it, and performed it with great courage and firmness; and in the beginning, advanced very far, forcing the Enemy, and beating them through a great and deep defilé, very difficult to pass, within their Lines, near which, the English and Scotch, Commanded by their General the E. of *Offory*, with great undauntedness, posted themselves (how difficult soever it was to be done.) But neither the one nor the other, by reason of the very great disadvantage of the ground, could be so seconded and reinforced, as that those advantages could be followed, and the Enemy sending from time to time fresh Batallions against them, some of ours, and two or three Batallions of the Allies, were likewise sent thither, to sustain the Guards and the other Troops with them, and afterwards to relieve the said Guards. The Fight continued very sharp, and notwithstanding the very great disadvantage of the ground, our Troops, with incredible obstinacy and firmness, made attack upon attack, till nine a clock at night, when the darkness parted them; about which time we thought fit to quit the Posts, which the Guards, and the English, and the Scotch had made themselves Masters of, but we maintained that of the Abby, which was the chiefest, and by which, the passage to *Mons* is greatly facilitated. In the night the Enemy retired to their Camp, and from thence farther, in confusion, leaving behind them many wounded, some Tents and other things. So sharp and long a Fight, *High and Mighty Lords*, hath spilt much blood; but we cannot yet certainly know what the loss is on either side: in the general, it is reckoned, that we have 5 or 600 killed, and almost as many wounded, and among both, Officers proportionably; the Enemies loss is made much greater, and it is apparent it is so, by the great number of their dead, lying in the places where the Fight was. Our Cavalry, by reason of the said Defilé came not at all into action. The Infantry and Dragoons of the State, did all that could be expected from brave and determined men, and

and particularly the Guards, who in beating the Enemy through the Defilé, overcame difficulties, at which, all that have since seen the disadvantage of the ground, stand surprized. All our General Officers are well ; his Highness was still in the hottest of the action, and nearest the Enemy, and it must be lookt upon as a wonder, and a particular effect of Gods mercy, that he came off safe ; and his Highness must have been certainly taken or wounded, had not some of his Family shot a French Officer dead, who came upon his Highness with a Squadron, and was so near, as to present his Pistol at him. However, his Highness presence so near our Posts, in giving the necessary Orders, according to the constitution of things, leading on, and encouraging his Troops, &c, did contribute so far, that notwithstanding the Enemy had so great an advantage upon us, in regard of the situation of their Camp, we gained and maintained so much Honour and Advantage. God Almighty farther protect his precious Person, and bless Your Hi. and Mi. Illustrious Government and Persons, &c.

P S. The Duke of Monmouth, a little before the Fight, arrived in the Army, and accompanied his Highness every where, and gives great commendations of the resolution and firmness of our Troops.

In the Camp near St. Denys, 15 Aug. 78.

Signed

Everard Van Weede.

FINIS